

THE GREEN WIRE

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No More Bureaucratic Studies – Sen. Green Demands Higher Education Tax Relief For Middle Class Families

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Sen. Timothy Green, D-Spanish Lake, introduced Senate Bill 670 which creates an income tax deduction for higher education expenses. The SB 670 creates a deduction for Missouri income taxpayers for qualified higher education expenses. In order to qualify, the student or taxpayer claiming a student as a dependent, must have a federal adjusted gross income of less than two hundred thousand dollars regardless of whether the taxpayer files a joint or single return and the educational expenses must be incurred by a student registered at least half time.

“Providing higher education at an affordable price has become increasingly difficult with recent state budget pressures and large decreases in state funding. Average tuition for Missouri's 4-year public colleges and universities is the highest among the Big 12 states and second highest among the lower 48 states.” said Sen. Green.

“Missouri can do better—a national report ranked Missouri's recent tuition increases among the highest.” said Sen. Green. “I offered SB 670 as an amendment to SB 590, sponsored by Sens. Nodler and Champion, which makes several alterations to the state's higher education policy because middle class families desperately need tax relief.”

“The income tax deduction is estimated to cost the state's general revenue \$27 Million—that is \$27 million dollars that students and parents can spend achieving their goal of earning a degree at a public university or college.”

“Tuition has increased 48% at University of Missouri-St. Louis over the past five years and students and working families have been hit by similar increases at every public university or college in Missouri.” said Sen. Green.

“Sen. Nodler's request for another study is abysmally inadequate. There is a tradition of studying studies and requesting more studies in Jefferson City.” said Sen. Green.

“Middle class families with students in college are demanding tax relief now—not after more meaningless studies that will gather dust on the shelves.”
